

**BUCK SPRINGS RANGE ANALYSIS  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
And RECORD OF DECISION  
Coconino County, Arizona**

**Lead Agency:**

**USDA Forest Service**

**Responsible Official:**

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**Abstract:** The Record of Decision details the decision and rationale for implementing Alternative G for the management of livestock on the Buck Springs Range Allotment. Alternative G focuses livestock use in the northern pastures and removes one entire pasture and two partial pastures from the allotment. It implements a rest-rotation strategy that allows pastures to be grazed one year in every two years. New fences will be constructed to protect headwater meadows and habitat for the threatened Little Colorado spinedace. Compared to other alternatives, Alternative G will provide for the most protection for riparian habitats and the Little Colorado spinedace, while allowing for livestock use in appropriate areas. Other alternatives considered include:

- A:** A No Grazing Alternative that would not allow livestock grazing on the allotment.
- B:** Continuation of current livestock management, a deferred-rest-rotation strategy that retains 100% of the current allotment, though requirements based on the Endangered Species Act may restrict use to 30-75% of the area. No new structures would be constructed.
- C:** A deferred-rest-rotation strategy that relies on moderate levels of improvements to affect the distribution of livestock and to protect sensitive habitats.
- D:** A deferred-rest-rotation strategy that relies heavily on herding to affect the distribution of livestock and to protect sensitive riparian areas and headwater meadows. A few structural improvements would add protection for critical sensitive areas.

- E:** A deferred-rest-rotation strategy that emphasizes the use of the northern pastures, and removes most southern pastures that include headwater meadows. Pastures would be grazed every year, and structures would protect other sensitive areas.
- F:** A rest-rotation strategy that uses all of the pastures and grazes one-half of the allotment each year. Relies heavily on the use of structures to affect the distribution of livestock and to protect sensitive habitats.
- K:** A deferred-rest-rotation strategy that relies heavily on herding to affect the distribution of livestock and to protect sensitive habitats. Includes the use of temporary structural improvements to add protection for critical sensitive areas.

The EIS describes the existing conditions of the physical, biological, and social resources of the allotment and the environmental consequences of implementing each alternative. It includes a section on the monitoring required to implement the Decision. Consultations on the effects of the project on cultural resources and threatened and endangered species have been conducted with the regulating agencies, and required mitigation measures are incorporated into the Decision. Comments to the Draft EIS, contributed by agencies and the public, were used to finalize the EIS.

The public has the right to appeal this decision under 36 CFR 215 (1993), and the permittee has the right to appeal under 36 CFR 215 (1993) or 36 CFR 251 (1989). A written notice of appeal clearly stating that it is a Notice of Appeal being filed pursuant to the appropriate regulations must be filed within 45 days of the date of legal notice of this decision in the *Arizona Daily Sun*. **Appeals must be filed with:**

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